

Appendix 2

THE CITIZEN'S ADVISORY GROUP
OF
LIBBY, MT

Dear Mothers and Fathers,

For four years the Environmental Protection Agency has been in Libby cleaning up toxic material left by the W.R. Grace Mining operation. For the same four years **our children walk to and from school across properties covered with visual signs of contamination and awaiting cleanup.** The fact is, while our community patiently waits we continue to worry about the **potential of future exposure.** This letter is about our community's future and the future of our families.

The citizens of South Lincoln County have agreed to patiently wait as the work of the EPA continues on pace, a pace we agreed to years ago, a **pace that allows up to 250 properties to be cleaned each year.** We have agreed to be patient only because repeatedly high-level EPA officials have promised **to fund** the cleanup to a level that **ensures our community gets a clean bill of health within 3 to 5 years.** Trusted EPA project managers have set a budget of \$20 million per year to complete this goal. They work hard to spend the money wisely and to the best interest of our community. Recently, the same "high level" EPA officials that have committed to the priority of our cleanup dramatically **cut the project-operating budget by \$5 million.**

What does this action mean to the families and businesses of South Lincoln County? It means our **families are put at potential risk for 12 years** rather than the **3 to 5 years** that we agreed to, only 130 properties per year rather than the 250 will be cleaned.

The recent decisions of the EPA to **narrow its commitment to South Lincoln County** cannot go unanswered. In response to this **shift in priority on behalf of the EPA** a number of concerned citizens have put together a letter writing campaign and we ask your help. We need **"thousands"** of letters to come from everyone in South Lincoln County expressing their concerns. To ensure your letters get to the highest level of authority within EPA, **the community intends to personally hand them to Governor Leavitt,** current Director of the EPA.. We will set up a **drop basket at Timberline Auto** for you and all of your family members to deposit their letters. We need to **speak loudly and firmly** and with a united voice. We need to **speak "now"**. We ask you to sit with your family, compose your letters and deliver them to Timberline Auto. **We ask that you speak from the depth of your heart so we can finally get our community back, clean and healthy.**

Let's fill the basket and tell the EPA that we want our town back. .

SINCERELY,
THE CITIZEN'S ADVISORY GROUP

Appendix 3

WE THE PEOPLE of Libby and Lincoln County, Montana, speak. We speak with one voice, one focus. We speak with divided, diverse, and disparate interests, yet we speak to one goal. Ours is a community decimated despite our diligence; caught unaware of the destruction of our environment and detriment to our health from long term exposure to asbestos. We speak as one, united in the prospect of a bright future in a beautiful natural setting, where we can claim a clean environment, our homeland secure from further environmental disaster from asbestos, our homes a safe haven for our children and our children's children. We speak from the job site, we speak from the classroom, we speak from the kitchen table, the business on the corner, the local pub, the fishing hole, and the golf course. We speak in loud, angry shouts, and in meek voices. We speak from the pulpit, and from the political platform. We speak from the grave. We speak for those who have gone before us, and for those to follow. We speak as a people who cherish our past, who are confronting our present, in order to craft our future. We speak to our president, our congressional delegation, our governor, our federal agency leaders, and our fellow citizens. We speak to the living legacy of a resolute people who deserve to be heard. WE HEREBY RESOLVE:

WHEREAS, the residents and the environment surrounding the city of Libby, Montana, and the surrounding area in Lincoln County, Montana, have had chronic exposure to tremolite-series asbestos from the mining and milling of asbestos products at the nearby W. R. Grace mine facilities from 1923 to 1990; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Libby, Montana, and Lincoln County, Montana have been afflicted with health concerns and human mortality resulting from occupational and secondary exposure to tremolite asbestos fibers discharged into the environment by the mining and milling of vermiculite at the nearby W. R. Grace mine facilities; and

WHEREAS, considerable research is currently underway in Libby by several state and federal agencies to analyze the threat to human health and the environment from asbestos; and

WHEREAS, this exposure resulted in the US Environmental Protection Agency declaring a 22-mile area surrounding Libby, Montana, as a Superfund site, with subsequent listing on the EPA National Priorities List for cleanup; and

WHEREAS, illness from tremolite-series asbestos is a problem that extends beyond Montana to national and international levels with future global consequences of yet undetermined, but potentially vast proportions; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Libby, Montana, and Lincoln County, Montana believe that prevention of further exposure to tremolite-series asbestos by appropriate and adequate cleanup of already identified tremolite-series asbestos is absolutely essential to the health of future generations by limiting new exposure to tremolite-series asbestos; and

WHEREAS, a state-of-the-art research center in Libby, Montana, site of the largest concentration of people who are ill with tremolite-series asbestos-related diseases, is appropriate and essential for developing new treatments for asbestos-related disease, new modalities to arrest the progression of the disease, and eventual cures for asbestos-related diseases as the only viable opportunity for long-term solutions for asbestos-related diseases; and

WHEREAS, the city of Libby, Montana, and the entire Lincoln County community, as a whole, regard a vigorous and rigorous campaign to clean up the Superfund area as the best remediation against negative perceptions related to “Superfund” designation, fears about continuing asbestos exposure, and the community’s economic future for attracting and retaining new residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the community of Libby and Lincoln County, Montana, believe that all three elements – prevention/cleanup, diagnosis/treatment, and research/cure - are necessary for a successful conclusion to the remediation effort and for a sustainable community future after the remediation,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CITIZENS OF LIBBY AND LINCOLN COUNTY, MONTANA, URGE

- 1) that the US Environmental Protection Agency be held accountable to continue funding for the cleanup at the previously agreed upon levels to reflect the quality standards and timeliness of cleanup of homes, businesses, and the environment that was promised; that this “silver bullet” NPR Superfund site for Montana be honored with the full weight of the power and obligation of the federal government;
- 2) that the US Environmental Protection Agency complete the assessment of the entire Superfund site surrounding Libby, Montana, as quickly as possible; if other highly contaminated sites are found, that additional funding be set aside for unexpected cleanup activities, thereby not diminishing the funding available for cleanup of homes and existing known contaminated sites;
- 3) that the US Environmental Protection Agency use the best science and best technologies available to monitor and to assess the tremolite-series asbestos danger, exposure, and levels of contamination that endanger the health of people in Libby and Lincoln County;
- 4) that the US Environmental Protection Agency demonstrate their long-term dedication to post-remediation community and economic recovery for the citizens and communities in Lincoln County affected negatively by asbestos-related exposure, the “Superfund” stigma, and resultant economic loss, by sufficiently assisting Libby and Lincoln County by means of the EPA Superfund Redevelopment Program or other CERCLA programs that would benefit Libby and Lincoln County, Montana.
- 5) that the Montana Congressional Delegation, the Governor of Montana, and the Montana Legislature continue to assist the community of Libby and Lincoln County to pursue funding and to exert all possible influence to make a state-of-the-art asbestos research facility a reality in Libby, Montana;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Montana Congressional Delegation, the Governor of Montana, the Montana Legislature, the Mayor of Libby, the Mayor of Troy, the Board of Commissioners of Lincoln County, the Director of EPA Region Eight and to the Montana Office of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

WE, the following signatories, represent ourselves, our families, and the businesses, agencies, and organizations with which we are affiliated, as residents of Lincoln County, Montana, and do hereby proclaim our endorsement of this resolution.

Dated this 1st Day of December, 2003.

Appendix 4

December 1, 2003

Mr. Mike Spence, MD.

Montana State Health Officer

Helena, Montana

RE: Libby ARD Healthcare Study

Mike:

As you are proceeding with the actuarial analysis, our CARD Clinic Board has recognized several apparent weaknesses, which could result in a significant underestimate of total health care costs. We would appreciate you considering the following points of question before embarking on the project:

- 1) CARD Clinic data will reflect only eight months of patient services.
- 2) Absence of clinical data on Dr. Alan Whitehouse's patient population. This group includes a larger portion of those with advanced ARD in the impacted population.
- 3) The population size will not be adequately reflected in the study. Based on new patients evaluated at the CARD Clinic (exposures and disease severity), we would anticipate a significant number of new ARD diagnoses in the ensuing years. Further impacting the population size are the increasing denials for coverage under the W.R. Grace healthcare plan (i.e., patients with advanced ARD, having hypoxia requiring O₂ supplementation not being accepted). Thus costly services for these individuals will not be in data collected.
- 4) Actuarial analysis is most probably based on past experience with chrysotile asbestos and also with better estimates of exposure levels. The Libby population has highly variable exposure experiences to Libby amphibole. If the propensity for ARD increases with increased exposure, how can we know what to anticipate in this population? The proposed analysis would fail to draw any meaningful correlation from the number of pathways of exposure with frequency/severity of ARD. Additionally, Dr. Whitehouse has observed a significantly increased rate of ARD complications compared to his chrysotile-exposed population.

In closing, these above concerns and how they may affect ARD healthcare cost analysis, the final tally could substantially underestimate this figure. The CARD Clinic Board has requested that you, Dr. Whitehouse, and myself meet together for review of the analysis plan prior to proceeding with data collection. Because of the ramifications of such an analysis, and recognizing one cannot quantify some of the uncertainties, we should approach the study with caution in view of weaknesses in analysis.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brad Black

Medical Director, CARD Clinic